

for the adult but states that the species is possibly bivoltine, which my observations confirm. Neither Emmet nor Traugott-Olsen, E. & Nielson, E. S., (1977, *The Elachistidae (Lepidoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark*) give *F. arundinacea* as a foodplant for this species.

Another species not recorded by Emmet or Traugott-Olsen & Nielsen from *F. arundinacea* is *Elachista bisulcella*, but on 22nd. June and 12th July 1983 I bred it from larvae found mining this on 21st. May 1983 at Seaton, Devon.

I am very grateful to Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton for identifying the foodplant. — R. J. HECKFORD, 67 Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth.

APATELE RUMICIS L.: KNOTGRASS — VOLTINISM AND MELANISM. — R. South (*Moths of the British Isles*, 1907) gives the flight period as June and July, and sometimes in August and September, while L. W. Newman and H. Leeds (*Text Book of British Butterflies and Moths*, 1913) writes similarly, but adding late May. My m/v light at Dartford, operated since 1969, indicates that here *rumicis* is always bivoltine, the first brood occurring in April, May and June, the second in July and August, very rarely in September. However the species appears to vary greatly both in numbers and in time of appearance. Thus, in 1979 I noted it as early as April 16th, while in 1976, a good year for the species here, an apparent second brood specimen was seen as early as June 30th (1st brood — 23 from May 2nd until June 9th; 2nd brood — 39 from June 30th to August 2nd). Since 1969 only in one year, 1977, did *rumicis* appear in September — four normal specimens, the last on Sept. 16th.

These m/v light records also suggest that here *rumicis* is commoner in the second brood. Thus in the nine years from 1976 inclusive, 81 first brood specimens have appeared compared to 290 second brood, and in all these years, except 1980 when there were but three specimens for each brood, the second brood was more in evidence, sometimes quite significantly, e.g. 1977 — 7:66, 1983 — 12:85, 1984 — 2:30. A further interesting point is that in Kent the larvae from the second brood seem to be observed much more frequently, thus Chalmers-Hunt (*Lep. of Kent*, 1968) has larval records only for the second brood, but this may be due to differing larval habits for the two broods; similarly, the preponderance of second brood imagines may reflect a difference in behaviour towards m/v light, but not, I think, of flight period.

B. Kettlewell (*The Evolution of Melanism*, 1973) includes the dark forms *salicis* Curtis and *lugubris* Schultz as industrial melanics phenotypically identical with ancient melanic forms found in the Hebrides and Co. Clare, and also states that most industrial melanic forms are dominant. N. W. Kent is an area noted for industrial melanism, and here during the 1970s the dominant form *carbonaria* Jordan of *Biston betularia* L. formed about 80% of this species as

indicated by m/v light records, the figure having declined subsequently, but melanic *rumicis* has remained at the comparatively low level of 20%, and this for both broods. Chalmers-Hunt (*Lep. of Kent*) states that the melanic form of *rumicis* seems not to have been noted in the county prior to 1892, and *carbonaria* was first recorded in Kent in 1901, so the length of time that these melanic forms have been known to inhabit the county is similar. In the *Lepidoptera of Kent* an error occurs regarding the prevalence of the melanic form of *rumicis* where the author suggests that this form is confined to the second generation, for my Dartford records indicate it is equally common in the two broods.

*Rumicis* has been attracted to my m/v light usually singly, very rarely as many as three; however on July 27th, 1983 there were twenty, curiously all typical specimens.

The above observations prompt several questions:—

- (a) In what other areas is *rumicis* more noted in the second brood?
- (b) What is the % of melanic forms of *rumicis* elsewhere?
- (c) Is industrial melanism in this species still increasing?
- (d) What % of the populations of *rumicis* in areas such as Co. Clare is melanic? — B. K. WEST, 36 Brair Road, Bexley, Kent.

A NON-COASTAL BREEDING RECORD OF CALOPHASIA LUNULA HUFN.: TOADFLAX BROCADE. — This moth, especially as a breeding species, is usually associated with coastal areas. However, on 25th September 1983, I found a mature larva in my front garden at Larkfield, five miles north-east of Maidstone. It was feeding on *Linaria purpurea* (L.) Mill. (Purple Toadflax) and pupated shortly afterwards on 29th September. The imago emerged on 21st June 1984. A search of other plants of *Linaria* in the garden failed to reveal more larvae or any obvious signs of feeding. — D. A. CHAMBERS, 15 Briar Close, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent.

SITOTROGA CEREALELLA OL. (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE) IN HEREFORDSHIRE. — This moth, a native and sometimes pest of warmer climes, has been emerging in great numbers from the Sandford Collection of straw work now housed at the Churchill Gardens Museum, Hereford. The collection came from Eye Manor near Leominster and includes a number of items of foreign origin. It is thought that the constant very warm microclimate that is a feature of part of the Gallery during the winter (the room being directly above the central heating boiler) was responsible for the emergence; the straw work was put on display during the summer. Initially a number in excess of 300 were removed from the main display case (floor area about 4ft sq), others were taken from the walls or from other free-hanging work. Several pairs were observed *in cop.* in grooves in the moulding around doors or windows. Numbers continued to emerge throughout December 1984 and January 1985, with an occasional one or two up to the time of writing this note.